

AR (augmented reality) App: Conquer Matsuyama Castle

Hold your smartphone over the dedicated AR markers set up in and around Matsuyama Castle to enjoy awesome videos!!



Scan this QR code to download the app. ↓ ↓ ↓



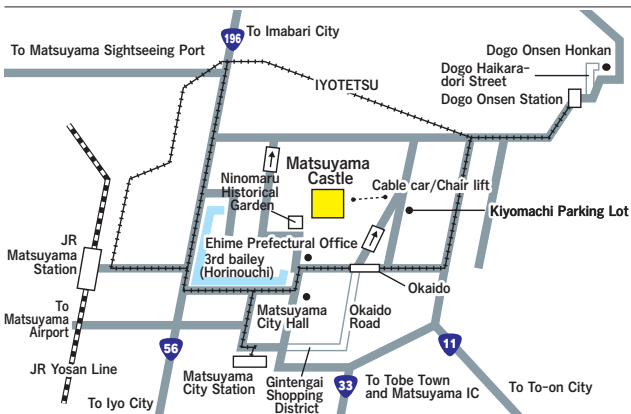
360-degree panoramic view from the top floor of Tenshu

Matsuyama Castle offers panoramic views of the Seto Inland Sea and Matsuyama Plain, for which it has been awarded a single star in Michelin's "The Green Guide Japan."



Matsuyama Castle is a certified Night View Heritage of Japan. The night view from the Honmaru courtyard at the summit is also superb.

Access



From Matsuyama Airport and Matsuyama Sightseeing Port
Around 30 minutes by Limousine Bus
→ 5 minutes on foot after getting off at [Okaido]

From JR Matsuyama Station
Around 10 minutes by IYOTETSU [Bound for Dogo Onsen]
→ 5 minutes on foot after getting off at [Okaido]

From Matsuyama City Station
Around 10 minutes by IYOTETSU [Bound for Dogo Onsen]
or [Loop Line bound for Okaido]
→ 5 minutes on foot after getting off at [Okaido]

From Matsuyama IC
Around 20 minutes via National Highway 33

Inquiries

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Ehime Prefecture 790-0004
Phone: 089-921-4873
Fax: 089-934-3417

ENGLISH 英語

Matsuyama castle

Kato Yoshiaki began the construction of Matsuyama Castle in 1602.

It is one of the biggest castles in Japan, standing on a hill above a plain.



松
山
城

National Historic Site

12 Tenshu (Main Towers) in existence
One of Japan's Top 100 Castles
100 most beautiful historical scenes of Japan

Information

■ Opening hours

Facilities	Period	Opening hours	
Cable car <small>Runs every 10 minutes</small>	February - July, September - November	8:30~17:30	
	August	8:30~18:00	
	December - January	8:30~17:00	
Chair lift <small>Not operated on rainy days</small>	Throughout the year	8:30~17:00	
	Tenshu (Main Tower)	February - July, September - November	9:00~17:00
		August	9:00~17:30
December - January		9:00~16:30	
Honmaru court yard <small>Free admission</small>	April - October	5:00~21:00	
	November - March	5:30~21:00	

※Pre-school children are prohibited from using the chair lift.

※Doors close to new visitors to Tenshu 30 minutes before closing time.

※Tenshu only is closed on the third Wednesday of December.

■ Admission fees

□ Adults: 13 or over (junior high school students and above)

□ Children: 12 or under (up to two pre-school children may enter for free per adult)

※Not applicable for group discounts.

Tickets	Normal fees (individuals)	Normal group discounts		
		Groups of 25 or more / 10%	Groups of 50 or more / 20%	Groups of 100 or more / 30%
All-inclusive ticket <small>Return ticket + Admission</small>	Adults 1,040yen	940yen	840yen	740yen
	Children 420yen	390yen	340yen	310yen
Return ticket for cable car/chair lift	Adults 520yen	470yen	420yen	370yen
	Children 260yen	240yen	210yen	190yen
One-way ticket for cable car/chair lift	Adults 270yen	250yen	220yen	190yen
	Children 140yen	130yen	120yen	100yen
Tenshu admission ticket	Adults 520yen	470yen	420yen	370yen
	Children 160yen	150yen	130yen	120yen

※Group discounts apply to groups of 25 or more. One person per group of 25 will be given free admission as a guide.

※Discounts are also available for groups of students or children. Discount rates vary, so please confirm with the General Office of Matsuyama Castle.

※Visitors with Physical Disability Certificates, Intellectual Disability Certificates or Mental Disability Certificates may enter for free with one helper each by showing their certificates. If such a visitor requires the use of a wheelchair, up to three helpers will be given free admission.

※Matsuyama City residents over the age of 65 may enter for free by presenting formal ID (e.g., driver's license) showing their address and age.

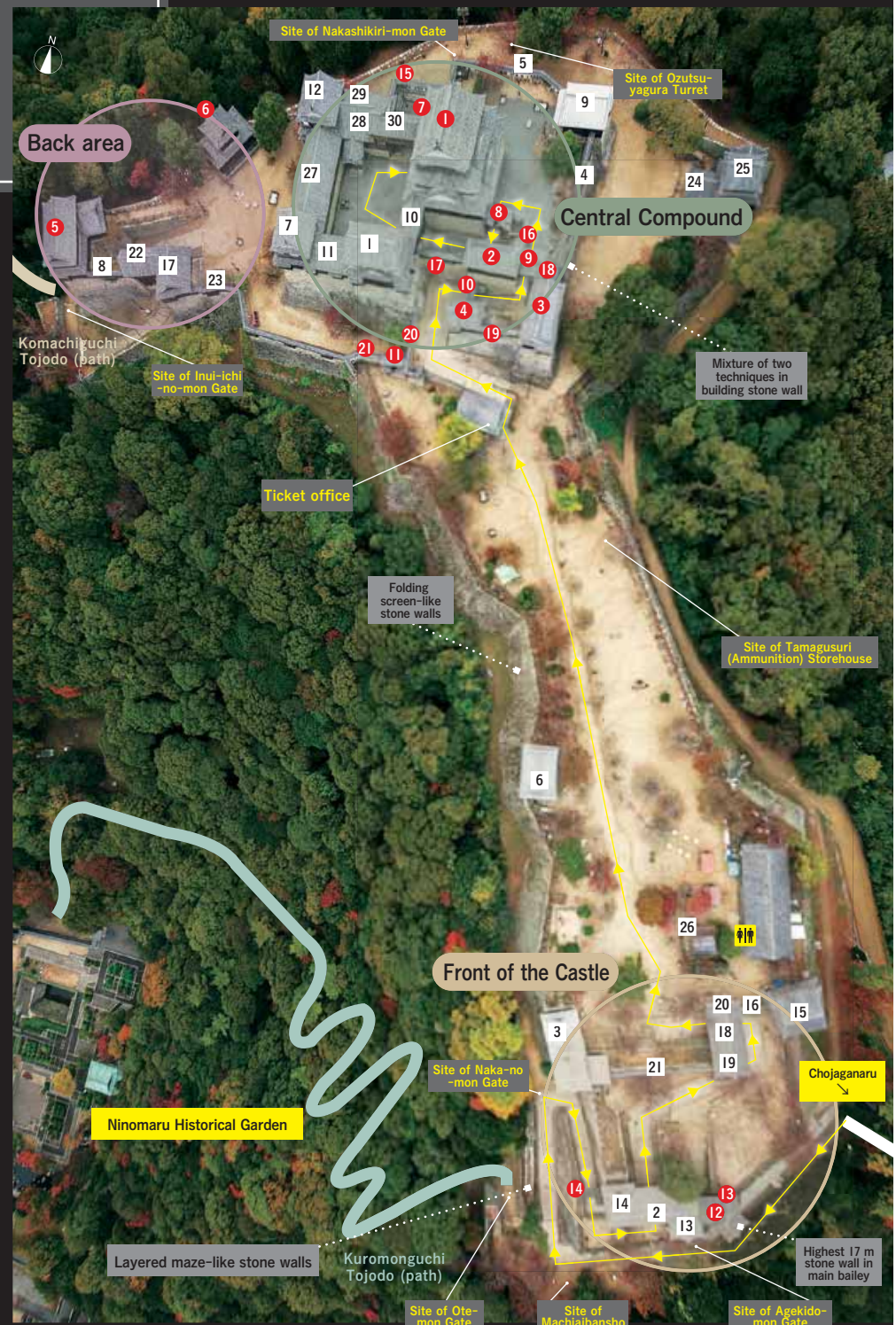
Map of the Main Bailey and List of Buildings

Important Cultural Properties

- 1 Tenshu(Main Tower)
- 2 South Turret connected Third Gate
- 3 South Turret connected Second Gate
- 4 South Turret connected First Gate
- 5 Inui-yagura Turret
- 6 Nohara-yagura Turret
- 7 Shikiri-mon Gate
- 8 Third Gate
- 9 Second Gate
- 10 First Gate
- 11 Shichiku-mon Gate (Purple Bamboo Gate)
- 12 Kakure-mon Gate (Hidden Gate)
- 13 Connecting Turret of Kakure Gate
- 14 Tonashi-mon Gate (Doorless Gate)
- 15 Inner Wall of Shikiri Gate
- 16 East Wall of Third Gate
- 17 East Wall of Sujigane Gate
- 18 East Wall of Second Gate
- 19 East Wall of First Gate
- 20 East Wall of Shichiku Gate
- 21 West Wall of Shichiku Gate

Reconstructed buildings / Registered Tangible Cultural Properties = ★

- 1 Ko-tenshu(Small Tower)★
- 2 Tsutsui-mon Gate★
- 3 Taiko-yagura Turret (Drum Turret)
- 4 South Wall of Tenjin Turret
- 5 West Wall of Tenjin Turret
- 6 Bagu-yagura Turret (Horse Gear Turret)
- 7 Minamisumi-yagura Turret★
- 8 West Wall of Inui Gate
- 9 Tenjin-yagura Turret
- 10 Sujigane-mon Gate★
- 11 Tamon-yagura Turret★
- 12 Kitasumi-yagura Turret★
- 13 East Connecting Turret of Tsutsui Gate★
- 14 West Connecting Turret of Tsutsui Gate★
- 15 Tatsumi-yagura Turret
- 16 West Wall of Tatsumi Turret
- 17 East Connecting Turret of Inui Gate
- 18 Taiko-mon Gate
- 19 South Connecting Turret of Taiko Gate
- 20 North Connecting Turret of Taiko Gate
- 21 West Wall of Taiko Gate
- 22 Inui-mon Gate
- 23 East Connecting Turret and Wall of Inui Gate
- 24 Ushitora-mon Gate
- 25 East Connecting Turret of Ushitora Gate
- 26 Well
- 27 Jikken Corridor★
- 28 Entrance Hall★
- 29 Entrance Hall Tamon Turret★
- 30 Uchi-mon Gate★



Information

- It takes around 10 minutes on foot from where you get off the cable car or chair lift (Chojaganaru) to the Tenshu entrance.(It takes around 20 to 30 minutes to walk up the paths to the castle)
- There are no restrooms inside Tenshu, so visitors are asked to use the restrooms found within Honmaru (the main bailey) next to the shop.
- It takes around 1 hour 30 minutes to tour the castle.
- Vehicles (including motorcycles and bicycles) are not allowed on any of the paths leading up to the castle.

 [Cable car] Time taken: Around 3 minutes
  [Chair Lift] Time taken: Around 6 minutes



Japan's Top 100 Castles Stamp is available by the Tenshu celler (entrance).

Ishigaki (Stone Walls)

Most of the stone walls were built by Kato Yoshiaki, the first lord of Matsuyama Castle. The 17 m high wall of the main bailey in particular is a magnificent work of art, going beyond its purpose to protect.



Two techniques: "Kirikomi hagi" (left) and "Uchikomi hagi" (right)

In "uchikomi hagi," the stones are processed roughly into shape, but "kirikomi hagi" has been used in some parts, in which the stones are cut so they fit together tightly. The wall on the eastern side of Central Compound was rebuilt when Tenshu was restored, so on the right is the older "uchikomi hagi," and on the left is the newer "kirikomi hagi."



Folding screen-like stone walls

One of the features of Matsuyama Castle is its folding screen-like stone walls. The wall zig-zags to make it stronger, and allows enemies to be attacked from two directions; from the side, allowing the attacking of enemies stuck close to the wall. These walls played an important role in protecting the castle.



Layered maze-like stone walls

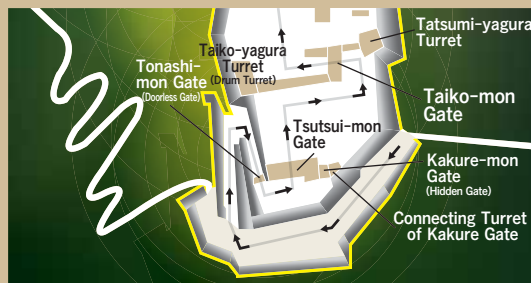


"Nobori-ishigaki (ascending stone wall)"

These walls were built on the side of the mountain joining the walls of the 2nd and main bailey to stop enemies. It was a technique used to build castles in Korea during Toyotomi Hideyoshi's Imjin War. At Matsuyama Castle, the "nobori-ishigaki" on the southern side remains almost entirely intact, and it is visible from the castle path behind the prefectural office and the 3rd bailey (Horinouchi).

Ote (Front of the Castle)

Resisting enemies from the front



Ote, the main bailey in front of the castle, is heavily fortified to stop enemies. Tsutsui-mon, the biggest gate, also has a hidden gate known as Kakure-mon for launching surprise attacks. Lined up beyond that are Taiko-yagura, Taiko-mon, Tatsumi-yagura, etc., where people waited behind numerous loopholes and stone drops. The 24.41 m wall between Taiko-yagura and Taiko-mon has 21 loopholes and two stone drops.



Tonashi-mon Gate (left) and Tsutsui-mon Gate (right)

Tonashi-mon, meaning "no-door gate," is a "korai-style" gate found at the entrance of Ote. It was given this name because it does not have a door. It served a strategic purpose in guiding enemies to Tsutsui-mon. Tsutsui-mon is the biggest gate for the main bailey, which was brought here from Masaki Castle. It is a vital gate for defending Ote, and the most important and solid line of defense for the castle.

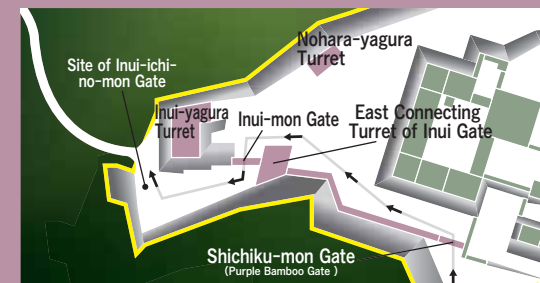


Connecting Turret of Kakure Gate (left) and Kakure-mon Gate (right)

Kakure-mon is an "uzumi-style" turret gate hidden by a stone wall behind Tsutsui-mon, and it was used to attack enemies from behind as they advanced from Tonashi-mon to Tsutsui-mon. It had a wicket door, and although it was small, it testifies to the castle's bold construction along with the weatherboard of the Connecting Turret, and the latticed windows of the Tsukiagedo.

Karamete (Back Area)

Protecting the back of Tenshu!



Nohara-yagura Turret

Nohara-yagura is a turret that was vital for protecting the northern side of the main bailey, and it is the only existing two-tiered watchtower in Japan, which along with Inui-yagura is one of the oldest structures on the premises. It has a lookout on top, said to be the origin of Tenshu.



Inui-mon Gate (left) and East Connecting Turret of Inui Gate (right)

Along with East Connecting Turret of Inui Gate and Inui-yagura, Inui-mon, the gate behind the castle on the Karamete side of the main bailey, formed a solid defense line. Karamete's first defense line past Inui-mon was Inui-ichi-no-mon, the cornerstone and stone wall of which remains today.



Inui-yagura Turret

Inui-yagura is a two-tiered turret that has stood on a slanted stone wall on the northwestern edge of the main bailey, since the castle was built. Along with Inui-mon, East Connecting Turret of Inui Gate and Tsutsui-mon, it is said to have been transferred here from Kato Yoshiaki's former castle, Masaki Castle.

Hondan (Central Compound)

The last line of defense for the castle!

Vital structures, including the Tenshu, are found within Central Compound. Built on a stone wall rising 8 m above the ground, there is only one entrance. The path leading up to it splits into two, and the passageway inside bends at right angles with square spaces ensuring solid protection.



First Gate (in the center)

This is the first gate of Central Compound. The top and bottom of the door are latticed offering views of the outside. It is a "korai-style" gate allowing attacks from above. There is a square space between First Gate and Second Gate, with a structure allowing attacks from four sides.

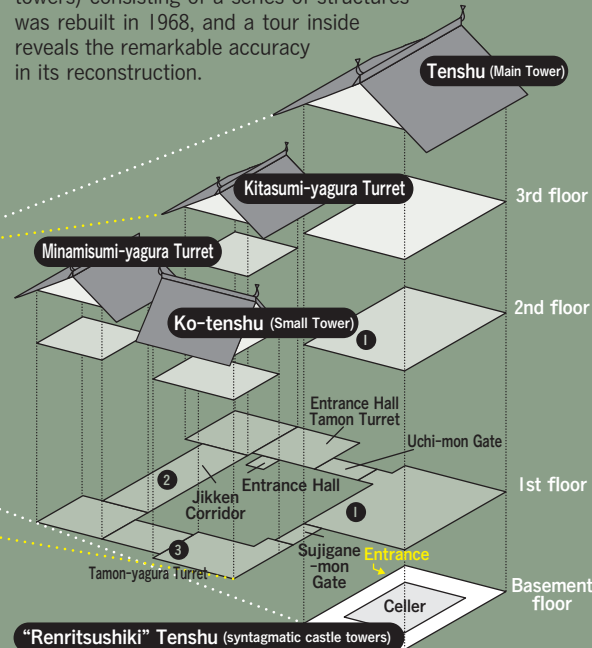


Tenjin-yagura Turret

Tenjin-yagura Turret stands on the northeastern edge of Central Compound, and it deifies Tenjin (Sugawara no Michizane), the ancestral god of Hisamatsu Matsudaira, in praying for the safety of the castle. Latticed shutters were used to ventilate the gable on the western side.

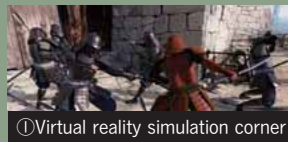
The complete breakdown of Tenshu!

Tenshu has three aboveground floors and one basement floor, and it is the last complete castle built in the Edo period a year after the Perry Expedition. Of the 12 Tenshu in existence today, it is the only one with the Tokugawa clan coat of arms imprinted on the tiles. The "renritsushiki" Tenshu (syntagmatic castle towers) consisting of a series of structures was rebuilt in 1968, and a tour inside reveals the remarkable accuracy in its reconstruction.

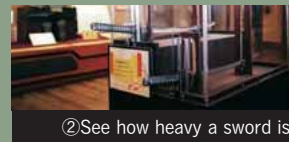


"Renritsushiki" Tenshu (syntagmatic castle towers)

This is a type of Tenshu with a main tower and smaller towers with turrets positioned in four directions joined by "watariyagura (roofed-passage turrets)." It is characterized by an inner court, and it provides the ultimate form of castle defense.



① Virtual reality simulation corner



② See how heavy a sword is

Inside the castle are displays of weapons, armor, helmets and historical materials. Visitors can also handle "hinawaju (matchlock guns)," feel the weight of Japanese swords and enjoy virtual reality castle siege simulations. (May be subject to closure)



③ Carpenters' graffiti

Graffiti was found on a weatherboard during major renovation work carried out in the Heisei period. It is believed to be from the time the Tenshu was rebuilt (1846 - 1854). It may be a picture of a "sakujū-bugyō (commissioner of buildings)" judging by the ceremonial costume.

The History of Matsuyama Castle

The main bailey of Matsuyama Castle is found at the top of Mt. Katsuyama at an elevation of 132 m. The magnificent "renkaku-style" mountain castle has 2nd bailey (Ninomaru Historical Garden) and 3rd bailey (Horinouchi) on the western side of the mountain, while the main part of the castle, has syntagmatic castle towers.

The castle was built by Kato Yoshiaki, known as one of the Shizugatake-no Shichihonyari. Yoshiaki was allocated 20 "mangoku" for his success in the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, and he moved from Masaki Castle (Masaki Town, Ehime Prefecture) to Mt. Katsuyama in the middle of the Dogo Plains, and named this area, Matsuyama.

25 years after construction began, Yoshiaki was forced to relocate to Aizu just before its completion, in 1627. Gamo Tadachika, the grandson of Gamo Ujisato moved into the castle instead.

He completed the 2nd bailey, but died of an illness with no successor on November 8 that year during a "sankin-kotai (system of alternate attendance in Edo)."

In July 1635, the lord of Kuwana Castle in Ise Province, Matsudaira Sadayuki, was allocated Iyo-Matsuyama 15 "mangoku."

In 1784, when Sadakuni was the 9th daimyo, Tenshu was burned after being struck by lightning. A permit was immediately issued to restore it, but facing financial difficulties, it was not completed until 1852 when Katsuyoshi was the 12th daimyo. A grand ceremony was held upon its completion in 1854.

The same tower stands today, and it is a remarkable recreation of Momoyama-style architecture despite being built in the final days of the Tokugawa shogunate.

After the Meiji Restoration, the castle was turned into a park. It was partially burned due to arson and war during the Showa period, but in 1966, it was restored using only wood in an unprecedented initiative. Today, it consists of around 51 towers, of which 21 are Important Cultural Properties, regaining its former glory.



Hisamatsu family (hoshi-urubachi)



Matsudaira family (mitsuba-aoi)



Portrait of Gamo Tadachika Portrait of Kato Yoshiaki (Stored at: Fujisakae-jinja Shrine, provided by Minakuchi History and Folk Museum, Koka City)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1602 Lord of the castle: Kato Yoshiaki (20 "mangoku") Kato Yoshiaki, Lord of Iyo-Masaki Castle, begins construction, then moves from Masaki Castle in the following year. He moves to Aizu in 1627 and is allocated 40 "mangoku."</p> | <p>1869 Land and people are returned from feudal lords to the Emperor. 3rd bailey burned in a fire in 1870. 2nd bailey burned in 1872.</p> |
| <p>1627 Lord of the castle: Gamo Tadachika (24 "mangoku") Gamo Tadachika, the grandson of Gamo Ujisato, moves to the castle from Karimoyama Domain in Dewa Province. Completes 2nd bailey. Dies in 1634 without a successor.</p> | <p>1923 Castle is donated by the former head of the feudal lord family, Count Hisamatsu Sadakoto, to Matsuyama City.</p> |
| <p>1635 Lord of the castle: Matsudaira Sadayuki (15 "mangoku") Sadayuki, the nephew of Tokugawa Ieyasu, is forced to move to the castle from the Kuwana Domain of Ise Province. Then peace reigns for 15 generations over 234 years under the Matsudaira family.</p> | <p>1933 Ko-tenshu, Kitasumi-yagura, Minamisumi-yagura and Tamon-yagura are burned in an arson attack.</p> |
| <p>1784 Lord of the castle: Matsudaira Sadakuni Tenshu is burned after being struck by lightning</p> | <p>1945 Taiko-mon, Inui-mon, etc., are burned during the war.</p> |
| <p>1854 Lord of the castle: Matsudaira Katsuyoshi Reconstruction of Tenshu completed (still standing)</p> | <p>1950 21 towers, including Tenshu, are designated as Important Cultural Properties.</p> |
| <p>1868 Lord of the castle: Matsudaira Katsushige Gives up the Matsudaira name and returns to former name of Hisamatsu.</p> | <p>1968 Ko-tenshu, Kitasumi-yagura, Minamisumi-yagura, Tamon-yagura, Jikken Corridor, etc., are reconstructed using wood. Reconstruction of gates, turrets, etc., using wood continues until 1990.</p> |
| | <p>2006 Maintenance work completed on seven towers, including Tenshu.</p> |
| | <p>2019 Nine towers, including Ko-tenshu, become Registered Tangible Cultural Properties.</p> |

